

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a water conveyance pipeline across School Trust land.	Proposed Implementation Date: 2016
Proponent: Barry Handy, Handy Industries Inc., PO Box 236, Scobey, MT 59263	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to install a new water pipeline across approximately 0.5 mi of School Trust land, which he leases, for the purpose of better grazing management on the tract and surrounding deeded land.	
Location: N2 Sec. 25 Twp. 35N Rge. 47E	County: Daniels

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Barry Handy contacted GUO staff to discuss the project and get an understanding of what was required for permission. Mr. Handy worked with Andy Johnsrud, District Conservationist for Daniels County, to develop the pipeline plan. He was sent a Land Use License application, which he completed and submitted along with maps outlining the project.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The impacted tract is under the Common Schools Trust. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation manages the surface and sub-surface of the tract, and would need to grant permission to the proponent to begin installation of the pipeline. No other agency has jurisdiction over the project, though Daniels County NRCS had a hand in developing the plan.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<p>Action Alternative: Grant permission to Mr. Handy to install a water pipeline across School Trust land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Deny permission to Mr. Handy to install a water pipeline across School Trust land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	<p>The area of impact contains loamy soils with slopes of less than 15%. These soils are not fragile or unstable. The intermittent drainage through the area sees little running water, generally only during and shortly after large precipitation events.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline crosses an intermittent drainage and this part of the pipeline would be more susceptible to erosion before reclamation (reseeding) of the area takes place. However, an existing pipeline less than 1 mile downstream has seen no problems with erosion in the several years that it has been in place. No major impacts to soils in the area are expected after reclamation takes place.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no changes to soils on the School Trust land.</p>
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	<p>There are no important surface or groundwater resources within the area of impact. Occasionally, surface runoff occurs through the intermittent drainage on the tract. The area of impact has no effect on water quality standards in the area.</p> <p>Action Alternative: Installation of the water pipeline will have no impact on drinking or ambient water quality in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution.</p>
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the	Action Alternative: This type of project on the State land will have

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<p>minimal impact to the air quality.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>The current vegetative community consists of native grasses and forbs. The area is relatively productive grazing acreage that has been overgrazed in the past. No rare plants or cover types are present.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The vegetative community will be destroyed in a strip approximately 16" wide when the trench is dug. This will increase the possibility for noxious weed introductions. However, Mr. Handy is working with NRCS to reseed the area after the project is completed with a suitable seed mix. The vegetative community should see very little alteration after reclamation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plant communities on the School Trust land.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>The School Trust land provides habitat for upland birds, mule deer and whitetail deer. The area of impact contains no critical habitat for important wildlife species.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The area of impact will see a slight degradation in habitat quality during the installation of the pipeline, but these impacts should be mitigated upon reclamation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the possible use of the School Trust land as wildlife habitat.</p>
<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened</p>	<p>The following species of special concern occupy this area seasonally: Long-billed Curlew. There are no</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
<p>or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>critical or sensitive habitats within the area of concern.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline will have no impact on unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impact to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>The area of impact is not visible from nearby county roads, and the public generally cannot see the area, due to there being no legal public access to the tract.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline will be underground and will have no impact on the aesthetics of the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to aesthetics associated with the School Trust land.</p>
<p>12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline would slightly increase demand/use of clean water in the area to be used in stock tanks.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no demands placed on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p>
<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on</p>	<p>There are no other plans, projects or studies on the tract that would be impacted by the project. The tract is managed for typical agricultural</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

this tract?

activities (livestock grazing).

Action Alternative: This project will not impact any other plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the School Trust land.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the School Trust land.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?

Action Alternative: During installation, there may be inherent safety risks associated with the trenching. Upon installation, a new pipeline will not increase health and safety risks in the area.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to human health or safety.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?

The tract is managed for livestock grazing. There are already water tanks in the vicinity of this tract, but the tank to be installed at the end of this pipeline will be on adjacent deeded land owned by the proponent.

Action Alternative: The project will have positive impacts on the livestock grazing that occurs on this tract. There will be a benefit to the lessee from having better water availability through the area.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to agricultural activities on the School Trust land.

<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not create nor impact any jobs in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the local and state tax base under this alternative.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not increase traffic nor add to demand for government services.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no additional demand for government services.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>The proponent has worked with Daniels County NRCS to create the plan for the pipeline. NRCS does not have jurisdiction over DNRC management goals, however.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will need to clear State management plans before implementation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this type of alternative there will be no impacts on locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</p>
<p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline will not impact recreation potential on the School Trust land, as there is no legal public access to the tract.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the School Trust land under this alternative.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will</p>

POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<p>not impact the density and distribution of population and housing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the density and distribution of population and housing.</p>
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the social structures under this alternative.</p>
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of this rural area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.</p>
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	<p>Revenue from the tract is mainly dependent upon the stocking rate. A yearly rental is paid for the grazing lease on the tract.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The installation of this pipeline on School Trust land would improve livestock distribution and allow for better grazing management on the tract and surrounding areas. Little change in revenue would occur.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the economic circumstances under this alternative.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: s/Jack Medlicott\s Date: 05/5/2016
Jack Medlicott Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action alternative.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts anticipated.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Matthew Poole Glasgow Unit Manager
Name Title

s/Matthew Poole\s Date: May 6, 2016
Signature